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In memory of Felix

Huay Nam Yen School, Thailand

Felix Cooper Robinson died just days after his 19th birthday when the bus he was travelling on in Thailand was involved in an accident. Felix, who was set to study economics at Manchester University, was passionate about travel and music. His family is asking for donations in his memory to go to Musequality.

The first project funded by donations in memory of Felix is at **Huay Nam Yen school** in northern Thailand. Like the Musequality project at nearby **Ban Mok Cham school**, the programme focusses on teaching children the traditional music of the Shan hill-tribe community.

Huay Nam Yen School is primary with six classes and a small nursery, catering for about 230 students. The children are all either Shan or from the Lahu hill-tribe. The school has already benefited from a visiting schools community programme, gaining a library, toilets and a fresh water system with the help of schools in the UK and Hong Kong. However, as with all similar schools, Huay Nam Yen is understaffed and things like sport, music and art can go by the board unless someone takes a special interest.

The money received by Musequality from Felix's memorial has paid for traditional musical instruments, which are stored in a wooden cabinet, built by local craftsmen, with Felix's name engraved on a plaque. Musequality has also arranged for a music teacher to visit every Monday.



Northern Thai guitar. I play it pretty well. I like to play in my free time too, it makes me concentrate. Sometimes my friends and I play in shows. My parents are very happy with me."

Kathamane, one of the pupils at **Huay Nam Yen** writes: "...I really wanted to learn music, but our school had only a few music instruments and all broken. One day our teacher told us we would have new instruments and a special teacher would come to teach us how to play. My friend and I were very happy because we wanted to learn. Now I can play many songs. Playing music makes me happy. I love to play in performances too."

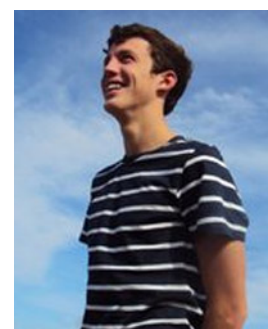
Grateful thanks to Felix's family for deciding to remember him in this way.

2014 update

Two of the pupils at the school write: "My name is **Pngpoom**. I am a Year 4 student at **Huay Nam Yen School**. I learned music from the television when I was in Year 2. Then our teacher showed us some of the new instruments at our school. I liked them because each had their own style and sounds. My friends and I feel very happy to have chance to learn how to play the music now in school. My favourite musical instrument is the seung. It is a

I lived on the streets of Kampala. When I came here (M-Lisada) my life started to be good

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Felix was passionate about music, and that legacy lives on at Huay Nam Yen

Leaving a legacy
Benefits of music

Design: Jane Davies